Montana Newsletter

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MONTANA NEWSLETTER

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HIGHLIGHTS OF THE 1971-72 FISCAL YEAR EXCERPTED FROM THE STATE LIBRARY COMMISSION'S ANNUAL REPORT TO THE GOVERNOR

(The 1970 biennial report of the State Library was the last such report published for wide distribution. Increases in printing and distribution cost dictate that this year's activities be summarized in this Newsletter.)

GOVERNOR'S CONFERENCE ON LIBRARIES Governor Anderson called a state-wide conference on libraries, held in Helena October 18, 1971. Some one hundred twenty-five persons attended, representing all areas and most major interest groups in the state. The State Library Commission and the Montana Library Association provided funding for this meeting. In his call to the conference, Governor Anderson asked participants to explore the vital and continuing role libraries have in the life of the citizens of Montana, and to recommend measures needed to insure effective library service to meet these needs.

SHARP INCREASE IN SERVICE TO HANDICAPPED The number of persons served directly or through deposit collections by the State Library's Division for the Blind and Physically Handicapped during the year increased by 112 percent, to a total of 3,232, with an increase in the circulation of materials by 34 percent, to a total of 54,435. The increase is attributed to workshops, mailings, posters, and close cooperation with other state and private agencies, and increased communication with patrons, through use of the IN-WATS line. Where there are sufficient numbers of patrons in schools, hospitals, state institutions, rest homes, and service areas of the large public libraries, deposit collections of materials allow the State Library to handle the increased volume of circulation and patrons. The number of people served through these deposit collections increased from 374 to 1,403.

INCREASED INTEREST IN LIBRARY FEDERATION DEVELOPMENT During the year, the librarians, library board members, and county commissioners of Phillips, Valley, Daniels, and Sheridan Counties made a formal joint request for a two-year federation demonstration. The Library Commission accepted this request and committed necessary funds, subject to appropriation each year by the Congress of the United States. A bookmobile was ordered for these counties, and a planning grant was made. The Miles City Public Library, acting as headquarters for the Sagebrush Federation of Libraries, requested funds for a one-year demonstration in Treasure County; again, the Commission approved the request, subject to appropriation of funds by the Congress. The South Central Federation of Libraries' demonstration ended at the conclusion of the fiscal year, and Big Horn County's Library Board agreed to contract for continuation of service; the Carbon County Commissioners agreed to submit the question of establishment of county library service by contract with the Federation to the voters at the November election.

LIBRARY CONSTRUCTION GRANTS MADE Funds under Title II of the Library Services and Construction Act were granted to the Miles City Public Library for a bookmobile garage addition to the library; matching funds were secured through donations and bequests to the library. Funds were granted to the Flathead County Library to remodel quarters for its Columbia Falls Branch; matching funds are available through local tax sources and a gift from the Columbia Falls Library Association. A grant toward construction of the new facility for the City-County Library of Missoula was made, following an almost three-to-one voter approval of an $850,000 bond issue in June.

INTERLIBRARY LOAN AND GOVERNMENT DOCUMENTS WORKSHOPS In December 1971 the State Library provided a series of six workshops on interlibrary loan practice and procedure, and the use of government documents and documents reference tools. More than one hundred seventy persons attended these workshops, representing all types and sizes of libraries. Better use is now made of network channels and request forms, and library users have increase service form the State Library and other libraries which form a part of the interlibrary loan network.

PACIFIC NORTHWEST BIBLIOGRAPHIC CENTER Use of the Center's facilities, open to all Montana libraries through funding provided by a group of subscribing libraries and funds provided by the State Library, has continued to grow. 3,541 requests, amounting to 11.51 percent of the Center's total, were sent from Montana Libraries: 2,611 were forwarded by the State Library on behalf of its direct service patrons and the public libraries of the state.

DISSEMINATION OF INFORMATION ON THE LIBRARY'S RESOURCES A periodic list of new adult nonfiction acquisitions had been prepared for distribution to public, academic, and school libraries, and to government offices and staff. A periodicals holdings list has been published and distributed. An indexed catalog of the state government publications in the Library was prepared and distributed.

IMPROVEMENT IN STATE INSTITUTION LIBRARY SERVICE Final plans were completed for a new library at the Boulder River School and Hospital; a full-time librarian was employed to serve residents and staff, and service is being provided from temporary quarters pending remodeling of space for the library facility. Initial weeding and a new deposit collection were provided at the Galen State Hospital Library, along with consultant services. A contract was signed with the Twin Bridges Public Library to provide local services to residents of the Children's Center, both at the public library and with a rotating deposit collection at the Center. At the Warm Springs State Hospital, services were increased to closed wards and the admitting hospital through more ward visitations and with small deposit collections in these areas. Audio-visual materials were offered to patients not able to come to the main library. A concentrated effort was made to provide talking book service to handicapped readers.

SUMMARY OF FUNDING BY CATEGORY

Personal services (all programs)	$188,343
Operating expenses (all programs)	116,763
Library materials and equipment (all programs)	93,679
Grants and benefits (federal funds)	
South Central Federation demonstration	67,113
Northeast Montana Federation planning and bookmobile purchase	34,791
Pathfinder Federation	31,669
Scholarship for graduate library school study	5,000
Miscellaneous grants to public libraries	3,381
Construction grants	204,797

SUMMARY OF FUNDING BY SOURCE

State Appropriation (General Fund)	175,000
Library Services and Construction Act (Federal) (including 1971 Title II funds carried forward)	570,536

David R. Hoffman
State Librarian